THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Fantastic Four
41 AUG
IND.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
"THE BRUTAL BETRAYAL OF BEN GRIMM!"
POSSIBLY THE MOST DARINGLY DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE!

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SPARE TIME—FULL TIME!

If you've always dreamed of getting into the $100-a-week bracket, here's your chance to join the "club". Men all over the country are doing it with my simple, proven plan. So can you. The 60-year-old Mason Shoe Mfg. Co. will set you up in a profitable "shoe store business". In your spare time, this business can add enough to your present pay-check so your weekly income is at least $100. Or run this business full-time and earn as much as $960 a month. But you should *never* make less than $100 a week again if you take advantage of this opportunity.

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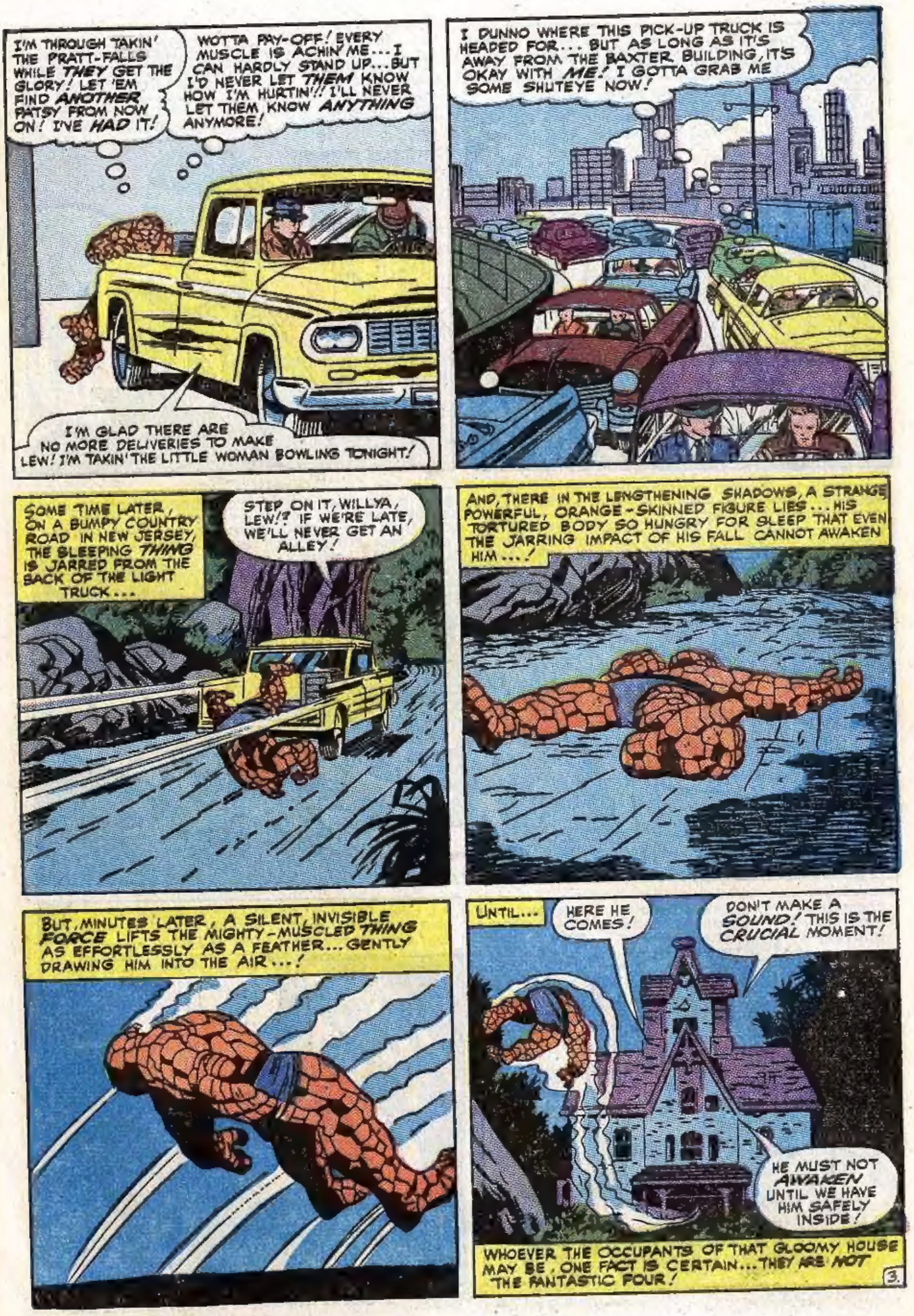
THE FABULOUS FANTASTIC FOUR ARE STUNNED BY:
"THE BRUTAL BETRAYAL OF BEN GRIMM!"
LAST MONTH WE SAW THE F.F. DEFEAT DR. DOOM! BUT IN ORDER TO GAIN THAT VICTORY, IT WAS NECESSARY ONCE MORE TO CHANGE BEN GRIMM INTO THE GROTESQUE THING! NOW BITTER AND FRUSTRATED, THE ORANGE-SKINNED POWERHOUSE DECIDES TO QUIT THE FANTASTIC FOUR ...!
WAIT UP, BIG BUDDY! I WANNA TALK TO YOU!
HE'LL NEVER FORGIVE ANY OF US, DARLING! WE'VE LOST HIM!
BEN! COME BACK! YOU CAN'T JUST WALK OUT THAT WAY! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
LEGGO! I'M CUTTIN' OUT! I'M THROUGH!
ONLY MIGHTY MARVEL COULD BRING YOU SUCH A SHOCKER... DESTINED TO BECOME THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT ACTION-THRILLER OF THE YEAR... FEATURING AN ALL-STAR CAST!
STORY BY: Stan Lee, WHO HAS NEVER LOST HIS TOUCH!
ART BY: Jack Kirby, WHO HAS NEVER LOST HIS MAGIC!
INKING BY: Vince Colletta, WHO HAS NEVER LOST HIS FLAIR!
LETTERING BY: Sam Rosen, WHO HAS NEVER LOST ARTIE SIMEK!

I SAID LEGGO! YOU CAN GET YOURSELVES ANOTHER FALL GUY!
HEY, BEN... WHAT GIVES?? WE'RE YOUR PALS, REMEMBER? IF THIS IS A GAG, YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT! LOOK OUT!!
DARTING ASIDE TO DODGE THE THING'S BLOW, THE BLAZING TORCH ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHES OFF THE AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM...
GO SOAK YER HEAD FOR AWHILE, JUNIOR! I'VE GOT ME A LOTTA THINKIN' TO DO!
BLAST IT! MY FLAME'S GOING OUT! JUST WHEN I NEED IT THE MOST!
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP HIM NOW!
BEN, LISTEN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT'LL YOU DO? BEN...!
IT'S NO USE, JOHNNY! WE'VE NO RIGHT TO STOP HIM IF HE REALLY WANTS TO LEAVE! ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE THAT HE WILL DECIDE TO RETURN!
BUT, I NEVER SAW THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES BEFORE! A LOOK OF SORROW... AND PAIN!
AND JOHNNY STORM, WHO KNOWS THE MIGHTY THING AS WELL AS ANY OTHER HUMAN CAN, HAS COME VERY CLOSE TO THE TRUTH...!
I TOOK EVERYTHING DOOM COULD THROW AT ME... FORCE RAYS... ELECTRIC JOLTS... THE WORKS!*
IT WOULDA BEEN ENOUGH TO CLOBBER AN ARMY!
*DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT! IT'S ALL SPELLED OUT FOR YOU IN F.F. #40..REMEMBER?-STAN.
BUT, IN ORDER TO DO IT, I HADDA LET REED TURN ME INTO THE THING AGAIN! I HADDA GIVE UP MY ONE CHANCE TO BE LIKE ANY OTHER NORMAL JOE!
NOW THAT IT'S OVER, REED 'N' SUE CAN GET MARRIED... JOHNNY CAN GO BACK TO HIS CHICKS AND HIS SPORTS CARS...!
BUT ME.. I'M A WALKIN' MONSTER AGAIN... AND I'LL PROBABLY STAY THIS WAY ...FOREVER!
2.


I'M THROUGH TAKIN' THE PRATT-FALLS WHILE THEY GET THE GLORY! LET 'EM FIND ANOTHER PATSY FROM NOW ON! I'VE HAD IT!
WOTTA PAY-OFF! EVERY MUSCLE IS ACHIN' ME... I CAN HARDLY STAND UP... BUT I'D NEVER LET THEM KNOW HOW I'M HURTIN'!! I'LL NEVER LET THEM KNOW ANYTHING ANYMORE!
I'M GLAD THERE ARE NO MORE DELIVERIES TO MAKE LEW! I'M TAKIN' THE LITTLE WOMAN BOWLING TONIGHT!
I DUNNO WHERE THIS PICK-UP TRUCK IS HEADED FOR... BUT AS LONG AS IT'S AWAY FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING, IT'S OKAY WITH ME! I GOTTA GRAB ME SOME SHUTEYE NOW!
SOME TIME LATER, ON A BUMPY COUNTRY ROAD IN NEW JERSEY, THE SLEEPING THING IS JARRED FROM THE BACK OF THE LIGHT TRUCK...
STEP ON IT, WILLYA, LEW!? IF WE'RE LATE, WE'LL NEVER GET AN ALLEY!
AND, THERE IN THE LENGTHENING SHADOWS, A STRANGE POWERFUL, ORANGE-SKINNED FIGURE LIES... HIS TORTURED BODY SO HUNGRY FOR SLEEP THAT EVEN THE JARRING IMPACT OF HIS FALL CANNOT AWAKEN HIM...!
BUT, MINUTES LATER, A SILENT, INVISIBLE FORCE LIFTS THE MIGHTY-MUSCLED THING AS EFFORTLESSLY AS A FEATHER... GENTLY DRAWING HIM INTO THE AIR...!
UNTIL...
HERE HE COMES!
DON'T MAKE A SOUND! THIS IS THE CRUCIAL MOMENT!
HE MUST NOT AWAKEN UNTIL WE HAVE HIM SAFELY INSIDE!
WHOEVER THE OCCUPANTS OF THAT GLOOMY HOUSE MAY BE, ONE FACT IS CERTAIN... THEY ARE NOT THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
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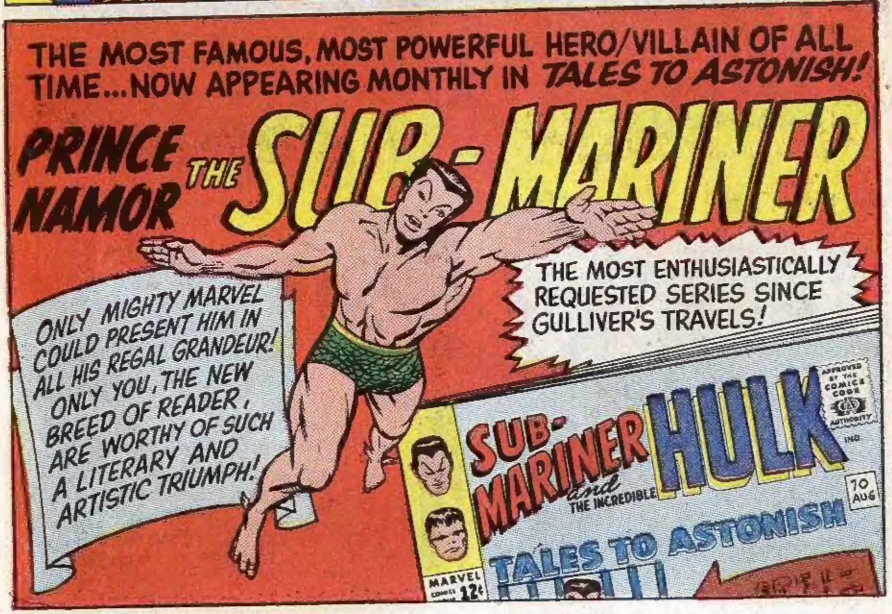
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

NOW STARRING in STRANGE TALES!
THE SURPRISE SENSATION of THE YEAR!
NICK FURY, AGENT OF
SHIELD
WELL, WHO DO YA THINK THIS IS... TUESDAY WELD?
IT'S DYNAMITE!
STRANGE TALES
135 AUG
THE GREATEST ACTION-THRILLER OF ALL TIME!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
PRIORITY A-1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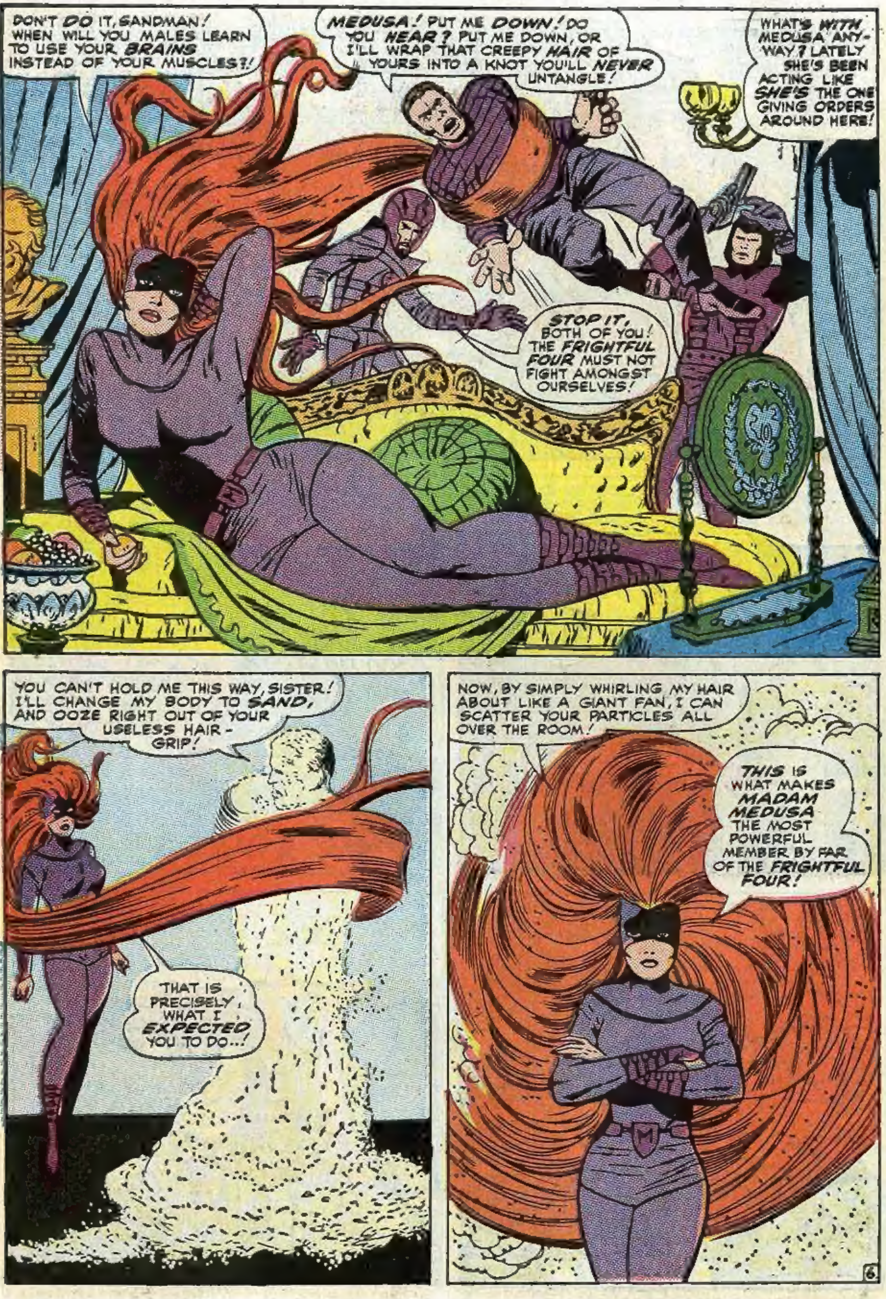
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, ALICIA! WE ALL FEEL THE SAME! BUT, BEN IS A GROWN MAN ... THIS ISN'T A PRISON ... HE'S FREE TO LEAVE IF HE WANTS TO ... WE ALL ARE!
BUT... HE DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOOD-BYE TO ME! HE MUST BE HURT... FAR MORE THAN WE SUSPECT... IN ORDER FOR HIM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ME!
THAT'S IT, DEAR! YOU JUST HAVE A GOOD CRY! I THINK THE BOYS WOULD LIKE TO SHED A FEW TEARS ALSO, IF IT WEREN'T SO UNMANLY!
IN A WAY I DON'T BLAME THE BIG LUG! IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S THE ONE WHO ALWAYS TAKES THE LUMPS, WHILE EVERYTHING COMES UP ROSES FOR US!
MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN AN ISOLATED SECTION OF NEW JERSEY, THE MISSING MEMBER OF THE F.F. IS EFFORTLESSLY DRAWN INTO A LARGE, FORBIDDING MANSION ...
SO FAR, SO GOOD! ONCE HE IS SAFELY INSIDE, WE'LL ASSUME COMPLETE CONTROL OVER HIM!
PERFECT! NOW DEPOSIT HIM UPON THE FLOOR WHILE WE MAKE SURE HE WAKES UP POWERLESS!
ALL RIGHT, PETE! HE'S ALL YOURS! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
I TOLD YOU TO FORGET THAT NAME! I'M NOT PASTE-POT PETE ANY MORE!
THE NAME TRAPSTER SOUNDS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT!
FFTTWITTT!
WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF, ARE YOU SURE THE PASTE FROM YOUR STICK-UM GUN WILL HOLD HIM?
WIZARD, IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO ANCHOR A BATTLE-SHIP!
YOU WON'T EVEN NEED THAT PASTE AFTER THE SANDMAN GETS THROUGH WITH HIM! JUST STEP BACK THERE, BOYS!
5


DON'T DO IT, SANDMAN! WHEN WILL YOU MALES LEARN TO USE YOUR BRAINS INSTEAD OF YOUR MUSCLES?!
MEDUSA! PUT ME DOWN! DO YOU HEAR? PUT ME DOWN, OR I'LL WRAP THAT CREEPY HAIR OF YOURS INTO A KNOT YOU'LL NEVER UNTANGLE!
WHAT'S WITH MEDUSA ANY-WAY? LATELY SHE'S BEEN ACTING LIKE SHE'S THE ONE GIVING ORDERS AROUND HERE!
STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU! THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR MUST NOT FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES!
YOU CAN'T HOLD ME THIS WAY, SISTER! I'LL CHANGE MY BODY TO SAND, AND OOZE RIGHT OUT OF YOUR USELESS HAIR-GRIP!
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I EXPECTED YOU TO DO...!
NOW, BY SIMPLY WHIRLING MY HAIR ABOUT LIKE A GIANT FAN, I CAN SCATTER YOUR PARTICLES ALL OVER THE ROOM!
THIS IS WHAT MAKES MADAM MEDUSA THE MOST POWERFUL MEMBER BY FAR OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!
6

WHEW! WHO EVER DECIDED TO CALL 'EM THE "WEAKER SEX"??
FATE DELIVERED THE THING INTO OUR HANDS, WIZARD! LUCKILY YOU WERE CHECKING THE AREA WITH YOUR VIDEO-SCANNER WHEN YOU SAW HIM!
THEN IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO TRANSPORT HIM HERE WITH YOUR ANTI-GRAV RAY DEVICE!
BUT, HE CAN BE OUR GREATEST WEAPON! HE MUST BE MADE TO SERVE US!
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY, MEDUSA! AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THAT LITTLE MATTER!
I SAY WE SHOULD POLISH HIM OFF RIGHT NOW!
SILENCE, TRAPSTER! I GIVE THE ORDERS HERE!
YEAH? TELL THAT TO MEDUSA!
LOOK! THE SANDMAN IS RE-FORMING!
NATURALLY! I DID NOT ATTEMPT TO INJURE HIM PERMANENTLY!
DARN RIGHT YA DIDN'T! I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE WITH GUMPTION ENOUGH TO STAND UP TO YA, BABY!
ENOUGH TALK! WE'VE GOT TO CARRY THE THING TO MY ID MACHINE!
WHILE, BACK ATOP THE BAXTER BUILDING, WE FIND...
I'VE NEVER SEEN REED LOOKING SO WORRIED!
WHERE CAN HE BE? SOMEONE MUST HAVE SEEN HIM BY NOW!
THE POLICE HAVE ORDERED AN ALL-STATE ALARM FOR HIM! HE'S GOT TO BE FOUND SOON!
PERHAPS HE WAS INJURED MORE THAN WE SUSPECTED DURING HIS BATTLE WITH DOOM! AND YET, I'VE CHECKED EVERY HOSPITAL... STILL NO TRACE OF HIM!
YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF, DARLING!
OF COURSE I CAN! AS LEADER OF THE F.F. I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING!
7

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BOYS! MEN! I'LL HELP YOU MASTER
YUBIWAZA
— says N J FLEMING — YUBIWAZA MASTER
*(YUBIWAZA IS THE SECRET AMAZINGLY EASY ART OF SELF-DEFENSE THAT TURNS JUST ONE FINGER OR YOUR HANDS INTO A POTENT WEAPON OF DEFENSE
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AND, REED RICHARDS' INTUITION IS INDEED PROPHETIC FOR LESS THAN FIVE MILES AWAY WE FIND
CAREFUL, WIZARD! HE'LL BE NO USE TO US IF HE'S INJURED!
MY DEAR MEDUSA, I DID NOT GAIN MY NAME BY CHANCE! A DELICATE EXPERIMENT LIKE THIS IS CHILD'S PLAY TO ME!
BOY, IF THEY EVER GAVE OUT PRIZES FOR MODESTY FORGET IT!
BE SILENT NOW, ALL OF YOU! I'M ABOUT TO ACTIVATE MY ID MACHINE, WHICH AFFECTS THE PORTION OF THE HUMAN BRAIN CONTAINING MAN'S PRIMITIVE, EVIL INSTINCTS!
IN OTHER WORDS, I SHALL BRAINWASH HIM... WEAKENING THE GOOD PART OF HIS CHARACTER, AND STRENGTHENING THE BAD!
WHEN I AM DONE, HE WILL BE ANOTHER EAGER FOLLOWER FOR US TO COMMAND!
I STILL DON'T LIKE IT! HE'S TOO BLAMED STRONG!
WHAT IF HE WON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM US WHEN HE AWAKES??
THAT WILL BE HIS MISFORTUNE! I SHALL NEVER PERMIT HIM TO LEAVE HERE... ALIVE!
I SURE HOPE THE WIZARD KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING IN THERE
HEY! SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU TWO BEEN HITTING IT OFF SO COZY?
MEDUSA IS FRIENDLY WITH WHOMEVER SHE CHOOSES, TRAPSTER! I ANSWER TO NO ONE!
I DECIDED THAT SHE'S THE CHICK FOR ME! I LIKE DAMES WHO PLAY ROUGH!
SO, GOWAN BACK TO YOUR GLUE-POT, SONNY! THREE'S A CROWD AROUND HERE!

IF ANYONE LEAVES, IT'LL BE YOU, UGLY! AND THIS'LL HELP SPEED YOU ON YOUR WAY!
UNHH! HE PASTED A VIBRO-SHOCK PULSATOR ON ME!
TRAPSTER! HAVE YOU GONE MAD??!
BUT I'LL JUST SMOTHER IT WITH A FISTFUL OF SAND!
THAT WON'T HELP YOU! I'VE LOTS MORE TRAPS WHERE THAT CAME FROM!
BIG DEAL! WHAT MAKES YA THINK YOU'LL GET TIME TO USE 'EM??
DIDJA EVER THINK ANYTHING MADE OF SAND COULD BE SO HARD!?
SANDMAN! STOP IT! HE'S NO MATCH FOR YOUR QUICK-CHANGE BODY! YOU'LL HURT HIM!
PERISH FORBID! YA WANT ME TO CRY MYSELF TO SLEEP??
BUT, SUDDENLY...THE HOUSE IS ROCKED BY A THUNDEROUS FORCE, AS THE VERY FLOOR BUCKLES BENEATH THEIR FEET...!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES IS THAT?!
I JUST WANTED YOU TO MEET YOUR NEWEST "TEAMMATE"!
I SUGGEST YOU STOP THAT CHILDISH DISPLAY OF TEMPER! IT MIGHT GET ON THE THING'S NERVES!
10

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'RE SCARED OF THAT ORANGE-SKINNED GOON?
HE AIN'T GONNA SHOVE THE SANDMAN AROUND!
STAY BACK! MADAM MEDUSA COMMANDS!
TOO BAD, MY FRIENDS! I HAVE ARRANGED THAT HE WILL ONLY OBEY MY ORDERS!
SHOW MEDUSA THAT ONLY THE WIZARD COMMANDS, THING!
UNHESITATINGLY, A TITANIC HAND SMASHES THROUGH THE WALL, RIPPING INTO THE LIVE ELECTRICAL WIRES, AS A BLINDING BLAST OF CURRENT SURGES THROUGH THE THING AND INTO MEDUSA'S HAIR...!
WELL DONE, MY POWERFUL PAWN! I THINK MY OTHER TWO ACCOMPLICES HAVE GOTTEN THE "MESSAGE"!
YOU MAY PUT HER DOWN NOW! SHE'LL REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS SHORTLY!
HAVE A CIGAR, THING! I THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET ALONG JUST FINE... JUST SO LONG AS YOU REMEMBER WHO'S IN CHARGE!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT... JUST SO LONG'S I GOT ENOUGH CLOBBERIN' TO DO!
LOOK! A FLARE... LIGHTING UP THE SKY OVERHEAD!
I WAS EXPECTING THIS! I KNEW THAT THEY'D COME, SOONER OR LATER!
THEY? WHO'S THEY?
YOUR EX-PARTNERS!
11

AND, OUTSIDE THE MANSION OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR...
THAT'S ABOUT THE ONLY PLACE WE HAVEN'T TRIED YET, REED!
IT ALL SEEMS SO HOPELESS!
HOPELESS OR NOT, LET'S GO!
NO ANSWER! AND YET, WE SAW A LIGHT! SOMEONE MUST BE IN!
THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED! STAY BACK! I'LL PUSH IT OPEN!
T LOOKS LIKE THE KINDA PLACE THE MUNSTERS WOULD LIVE IN!
BUT, NO SOONER DOES MR. FANTASTIC STEP INSIDE, THAN A POWERFUL BLAST OF ANTI-GRAV FORCE SEIZES HIM, HURLING HIM DOWN THE LONG CORRIDOR...
JOHNNY! SUE! WATCH OUT! IT'S A TRAP!!
...RIGHT INTO THE WAITING FIGURE OF... THE SANDMAN!
HAH! GOTCHA!
THE SANDMAN!
YOUR PUNCHES CAN'T HURT ME, RICHARDS! EVER TRY TO MAKE A SAND PILE SAY "OUCH"?!!
NOW CALM DOWN! THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR WANT YA TO MEET SOMEBODY!
HERE COMES THE TORCH!
MY ANTI-GRAV POWER WILL KEEP HIM OFF BALANCE, SO HE CAN'T HURL ANY FIREBALLS ACCURATELY!
12.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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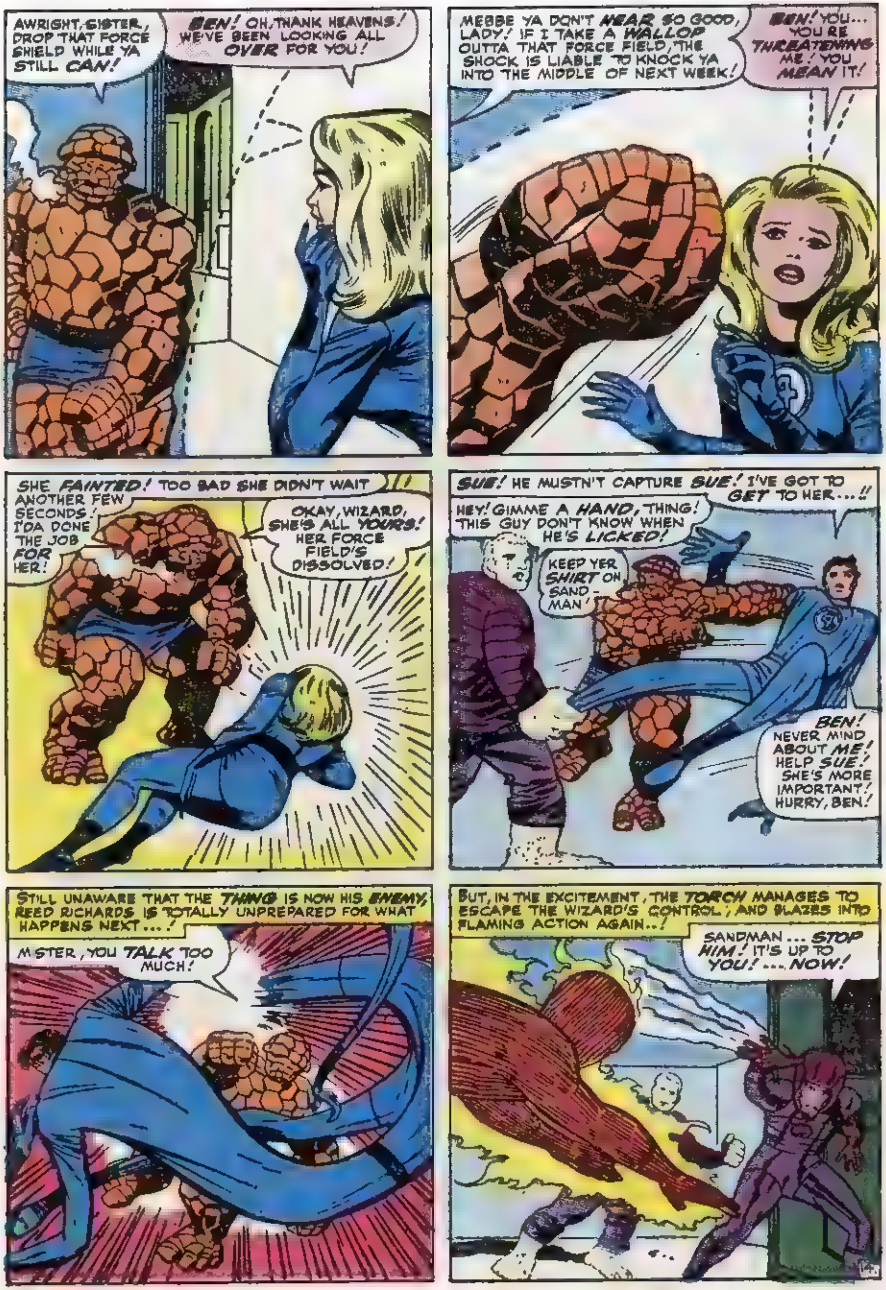
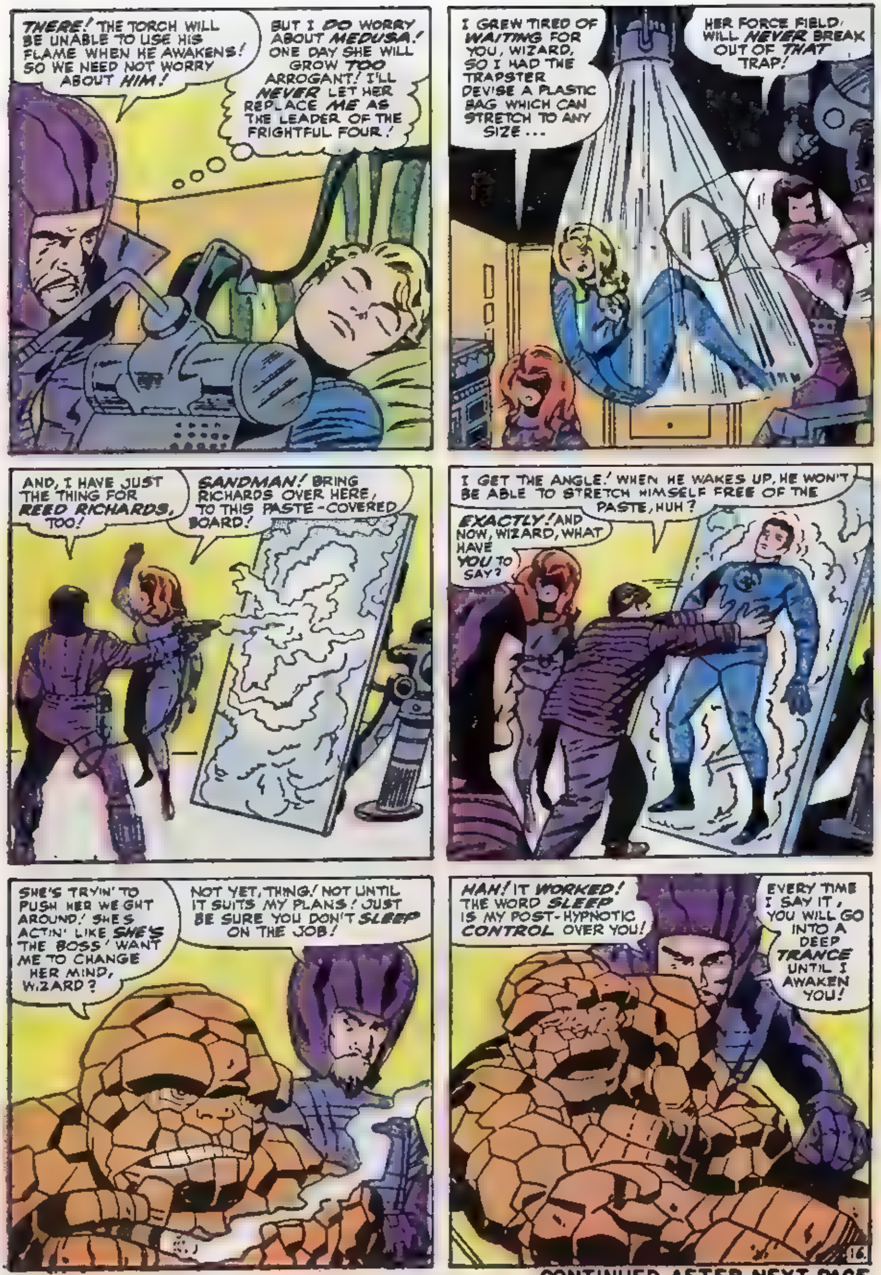

AWRIGHT, SISTER, DROP THAT FORCE SHIELD WHILE YA STILL CAN!
BEN! OH, THANK HEAVENS! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
MEBBE YA DON'T HEAR SO GOOD, LADY! IF I TAKE A WALLOP OUTTA THAT FORCE FIELD, THE SHOCK IS LIABLE TO KNOCK YA INTO THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK!
BEN! YOU... YOU'RE THREATENING ME! YOU MEAN IT!
SHE FAINTED! TOO BAD SHE DIDN'T WAIT ANOTHER FEW SECONDS! I'DA DONE THE JOB FOR HER!
OKAY, WIZARD, SHE'S ALL YOURS! HER FORCE FIELD'S DISSOLVED!
SUE! HE MUSTN'T CAPTURE SUE! I'VE GOT TO GET TO HER...!!
HEY! GIMME A HAND, THING! THIS GUY DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'S LICKED!
KEEP YER SHIRT ON SAND-MAN!
BEN! NEVER MIND ABOUT ME! HELP SUE! SHE'S MORE IMPORTANT! HURRY, BEN!
STILL UNAWARE THAT THE THING IS NOW HIS ENEMY, REED RICHARDS IS TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...!
MISTER, YOU TALK TOO MUCH!
BUT, IN THE EXCITEMENT, THE TORCH MANAGES TO ESCAPE THE WIZARD'S CONTROL, AND BLAZES INTO FLAMING ACTION AGAIN..!
SANDMAN... STOP HIM! IT'S UP TO YOU! ...NOW!
14

GOOD SHOT! NOTHING CAN REMAIN AFLAME WHEN SMOTHERED WITH SAND!
BEN, OL' BUDDY! HE DOUSED MY FIRE!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! DO SOMETHING!!
SURE, KID... SURE! I WAS HOPIN' YA'D ASK!
HOW'S THIS FOR A STARTER?!
DID YOU SEE THAT?!! HE THREW THE LOOSE PARTICLES OF SAND WITH SUCH INCREDIBLE FORCE THAT THEY KNOCKED THE TORCH UNCONSCIOUS!
SO! FOR THE SECOND TIME THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR HAVE BEATEN THEIR DOOMED COUNTER-PARTS!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GETTIN TO BE A HABIT!
BUT THIS TIME WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEY DO NOT ESCAPE!
WIZARD, PLACE YOUR AUTOMATIC WATER SPRINKLER ON THE TORCH! IF HE TRIES TO FLAME ON HE'LL BE SOAKED AGAIN!
WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT RICHARDS?
HERE'S THE GIRL!
I HAVE WAYS OF KEEPING THEM ALL HELPLESS... AS YOU SHALL SEE!
13



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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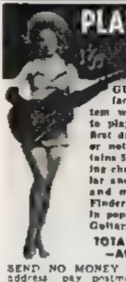

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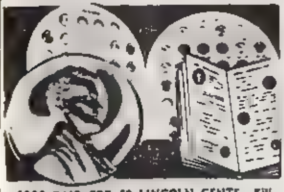

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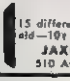

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MYSTIC STAMP CO. Camden 1 New York

I DON'T LIKE IT, WIZARD! HE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO KEEP AROUND!
YEAH! 'SPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CONTROL 'IM!
IF YOU OBJECT TO HIS PRESENCE, YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO "DISPOSE" OF HIM!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GONNA DO! I'LL MAKE MY FIST HARDEN TO THE DENSITY OF A SLEDGE HAMMER! ALL IT'LL TAKE IS ONE PUNCH! HERE GOES..!
EEEYOWP!
YOU FOOL! DID YOU THINK EVEN A SLEDGE HAMMER COULD HARM THE MIGHTY THING? DID YOU THINK I'D PERMIT IT ??!
I'LL GET 'IM YET! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING! JUST WAIT..!
NO NEED TO WAIT, SANDMAN! MY NEW EXPLOSIVE PELLET, FIRED AT SHORT RANGE, SHOULD TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!
17

NO! I'VE STOOD FOR ENOUGH! CAN'T YOU SEE THE WIZARD IS MAKING FOOLS OF YOU! HE KNOWS YOU CAN'T HURT THE THING! HE'S JUST TAUNTING YOU!
NOW DROP THAT GUN AND GET OVER WITH THE OTHERS! IT'S TIME FOR MADAM MEDUSA TO HAVE HER SAY!
WHY SHOULD WE DESTROY THE THING WHEN WE CAN STILL HAVE HIM SERVE US?
WE CAN LET HIM BATTLE OUR ENEMIES FOR US... AND, IF HE SHOULD LOSE, THEN WHO WOULD CARE?
YOU'RE RIGHT, BABY!
AND, HIS FIRST TASK CAN BE TO RID THE WORLD OF HIS THREE FORMER PARTNERS! UNLESS THE WIZARD HAS ANY OBJECTIONS?
NO OBJECTIONS, MEDUSA! I SHALL GIVE THE NECESSARY ORDERS!
I STILL DON'T TRUST THE WIZARD AS FAR AS I CAN THROW 'IM!
THEN, AS THE WIZARD AND HIS TWO EVIL HENCHMEN MAKE THEIR FINAL PLANS...
THE THING, SUE STORM, AND THAT JUVENILE TORCH MEAN NOTHING TO ME! BUT REED RICHARDS... HE SEEMS ALMOST TOO HANDSOME TO HARM...!
AND YET, NONE OF US ARE SAFE WHILE ANY OF THEM LIVE! I MUST NOT BECOME WEAK AND FEMININE AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, MEDUSA?
NOTHING! LET US BEGIN!
19

C'MON, WIZARD! WHY THE DELAY?? WAKE 'IM UP! LET'S GET IT OVER WITH! OR WE'LL DO THE JOB OURSELVES!
MAYBE HE CAN'T WAKE 'IM UP! MAYBE THE THING'S KAPUT!
OF COURSE I CAN WAKEN HIM! JUST WATCH ME!
HEY! KNOCK IT OFF!! WHATCHA TRYIN' TO DO.. GIMME AN' EAR ACHE?
OH, DOES THIS CLAPPING BOTHER YOU? A THOUSAND PARDONS, THING!
CLAP! CLAP!
NOW, YOU STAND HERE WHILE THE OTHERS GET YOU A COSTUME... AND A MASK!
COSTUME? MASK? WHAT IN BLAZES FOR??
TELL HIM, WIZ! HE'S TOO UGLY TO LOOK AT!
YEAH. WE GOTTA COVER UP THAT K SSER OF H'S SOMEHOW!
UGLY, AM I?? YOU KNUCKLEHEADED CREEPS, I'LL CLOBBER THE MESS OF YA!!
PERFECT! HE'S REACTING EXACTLY AS I PLANNED! NOW FOR THE FINAL PUSH..!
LOOK IN THE MIRROR, THING... NOW REMEMBER. REMEMBER WHO DID THAT TO YOU'' IT WAS RICHARDS... HE'S THE ONE WHO MADE YOU THE MONSTER YOU ARE!! RICHARDS!!
SURE IT WUZ HIM!! I ALWAYS KNEW IT!

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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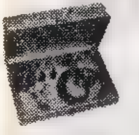

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REMEMBER, THESE SPECTACULAR SHIRTS POSITIVELY CANNOT BE BOUGHT IN STORES! YOU'VE GOT TO GET YOURS THE *HARD* WAY, BY SENDING A COUPON! SO HURRY! BE THE FIRST IN YOUR PADDED CELL TO WEAR ONE!

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Lee Whittlesey, Norman, Okla.

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FF 41

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FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

Send your letters to:
LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR
625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022
N. Y.

—If you think THIS issue was something, just wait till you see what's in store for you NEXT ish! You'll never know how frustrated we feel because we can't tell you about it, but it just wouldn't be fair to spoil all the surprises in store for you by giving them away now! So, the smart thing to do is change the subject for a while, and what better way to do it than by chipping away at our mountain of mail—!

Dear Stan and Jack,

First of all, thank you for your fantastic comics. Because my true love is hopelessly addicted to them, I am saved the incredible strain of even having to communicate with him anymore. I just watch his eager little beady eyes pour over page after page, while I listen intently to his sardonically irritating laugh of wicked pleasure at various incidents in each story! Too, I admire the artistic way his room is decorated with pictures of each of your fascinating characters. I am now spared the pain of deciding what to wear places. I no longer go places. He spends his annual allowance on magazines—Marvel, of course. Well anyway, I'm not spending my last earthly dollar on a membership to the MMMS for him; (he'll probably scrape the money together eventually for himself out of what he would have spent on my Christmas, birthday, Valentine's Day, Mothers' Day, Easter, Halloween and April Fool's Day presents for the next six or seven years). And I wouldn't buy one for myself—he'd find out and I'd get the eternal, "I told you so." Instead, I want this dollar to buy a membership for a needy friend; needy, because shortly after my one and only met her one and only, the latter was introduced by the former to your comics and now he too is incurably, madly, desperately, hopelessly in constant need of them. I wish to cheer her in her grief, ease the sorrow of her great loss with some small pleasure. Please send all your goodies as soon as possible. I don't know how long she'll be able to last. I'm waiting patiently for the day when I can break up with "the lug" so I can safely become a MMMS member myself. Meanwhile, I just sit with him, put on my "disgusted" look and read his Marvel comics with hidden glee. Instead of learning of insignificant persons such as Plato and Shakespeare and Freud, I am spending my time at college studying the real history makers like Ben Grimm!

Lynn Wilson, Sanborn Hall
Pitzer College, Claremont, Calif.

Whew! We're still not sure if you like us or loathe us, but we got a kick out of your moanin' missive just the same. Love ya, Lynn!

THE BIGGEST NEWS YET! When mighty Marvel changes the line-ups in a couple of already successful titles, that's news! But when the changes are as great as these, that's a sensation! We'll give it to you fast, straight, and unvarnished —because nothing we can say could possibly add to the genuine luster of these two fabulous strips! Starting with the issues now on sale, STRANGE TALES will feature "Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.", while TALES TO ASTONISH stars "Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner"! See what we mean? What more can we say, except—don't dare miss 'em!

Dear Stan and Jack,

The factor that made the FANTASTIC FOUR #37 such a standout was the unusually well-done cover. Oft times your covers seem to be one large blurb, created for the sole purpose of selling the magazine, with little regard for true artwork. For this reason I herald this cover; perhaps the most striking and eye-appealing to be yet produced for the magazine. The dark backgrounds contrasted the Torch's flame and the title-logo beautifully, and the larger figures in the foreground created an almost three-dimensional effect. My congratulations, Jack! "Behold a Distant Star" (another excellent title) was an exceptional tale, with a fine script and plot. About Sue's engagement to Reed, you've no doubt received much mail concerning this subject, both pro and con. Many may object, giving as their reasons that they dislike "mush" and what-not. From a realistic viewpoint, however, this development is inevitable, as well as totally logical. Once again, you have deviated from the prescribed format of the media. I hail and encourage your creativity.

Keith McWalter, 15017 2874 Lindenwood Dr.
Bridgeville, Pa.

After putting your letter thru our electronic analytical thingamawhoozy, we've come to the conclusion that you approve of the coming marriage. Both Sue and Reed are very relieved.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #27: Featuring the long-awaited secret of Frederick Foswell—and it won't be what you are expecting! If that doesn't grab you, nothing will!

AVENGERS #18: Marvel's most surprising, mightiest super-team finds an incredible danger behind the iron curtain! See why Captain America's new fighting band is the talk of comicdom today!

X-MEN #12: At last! The long-awaited origin of Professor X—plus the most dramatic introduction of a mysterious new villain that you've ever seen! Stan and Jack pulled out all the stops on this one!

THOR #118: For the first time in recorded history, Goldilocks faces a super-foe who is not only as strong as he—but actually STRONGER! Possibly the greatest new menace ever presented will meet your startled eyes in this epic-making issue!

STRANGE TALES #135: The secret's out at last! Mighty Marvel has bowed to your demands! This ish will be a collector's item before the year's end, for it features the start of the most off-beat series of all: Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.! Written by our leader, and drawn by King Kirby! 'Nuff said!

SUSPENSE #68: Iron Man stars in "If a Man Be Mad!" Captain America thrills you again in "Lest Tyranny Triumph!" Without bragging, without fanfare, we can honestly say that this issue reaches a new height of pictorial perfection!

ASTONISH #70: Bursting on the scene with the shock of a thunderclap comes the most famous hero-villain of all time—Sub-Mariner, beginning the most dramatic, spectacular series yet! We predict that the powerful combo of Prince Namor, followed by the incredible Hulk, will make ASTONISH the fastest Marvel sell-out of the month!

SGT. FURY #20: We promised they'd be back, and here they are! The fantastic Blitz Squad of Baron Strucker returns for the most exciting hand-to-hand battle with the Howlers that we've ever presented! It's a real combat shocker!

—Wanna make a little bet? We predict that our titillating T-shirts will be the most talked-about sensation of the season! No matter how appealing they may look on our full-page ad, take our word for it—they're a dozen times brighter and more dazzling in real life! Ol' Smilin' Stan has been wearing his all day! We finally managed to yank it off him, and what did we find? He had ANOTHER one underneath it! If you Marvelites dig 'em half as much as the gang in the bullpen does, they're liable to replace skin! And, the biggest gig of all is to order one for the most CONSERVATIVE person you know—your school dean, or your boss, or the fella next door who never takes his nose out of the Wall Street Journal! Can you imagine the reaction! So, order as many as you want—we took over a whole frantic factory and we're turning 'em out like hotcakes—'cause we want you to be well-dressed! 'Nuff said!

—Whoops! We clean forgot to mention our great, swingin' F.F. ANNUAL #3, which goes on sale early in July! We'll make it short and sweet, 'cause this block-buster doesn't need any hard sell. It features the most oft-requested F.F. classics of all, PLUS a feature-length original epic starring the marriage of Reed and Sue, with more super-heroes, super-villains, and super-surprises than you've ever seen between any two covers before! Reserve yours NOW at your mag dealer—no matter how many we print, they're never enough!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I just want to compliment you on your marvelous job. Of course I am referring to FF #37—"Behold a Distant Star." The entire mag was a stroke of genius. I especially liked the two middle panels on page 19 in which the Fantastic Four comment that people of any race or nationality are basically the same and that there is no real difference. When people will adhere to this, we'll stand whole and united in the eyes of brotherhood. That, my dear sirs, is an inspiration to all broadminded individuals who read your magazines. I salute your foresight.

Garland W. Edmonson, Jr., 715 W. 10th Street
Junction City, Kansas

Thank you, Gar! And if you think our foresight is something, you should see our hindsight! We're masters in that department!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I have just finished reading FANTASTIC FOUR #38. It was just perfect and the artwork was beautiful; I don't have anything to complain about. But, I would like to know who colors the pictures?

Ben John, 243 E. Cherry St.
Mt. Carmel, Pa.

Uh uh! He won't let us tell you until you let us know whether you like the coloring or not! He's a very insecure type of guy!

Dear Stan and Jack,

As the Fantastic Four leave the domain of the Skrulls in issue #37, they say, "It's a different galaxy . . . with a different race of living beings . . . and yet . . . it seems that ambition, and hate, and love, are the same everywhere in the universe! Perhaps we're really not so different from others . . . either on earth . . . or in the void of space! And, the day all mankind realizes that lesson . . . we shall come a step closer to brotherhood . . . and universal peace!" A fine sentiment! But, you aren't as humane to Earth people. In SUSPENSE #64, a devilish dictator, called "comrade leader" forces Black Widow to carry out his "evil purposes." Fighting against the Russian ghouls is one of the "richest, handsomest, most glamorous munitions makers of all time." Iron Man says the Russian gunmen talk "like true Commie tintypes." Man, the John Birch Society must love Marvel when you come up with something like that! Let's face it, there's no purpose behind that kind of anti-Communist tintype except promoting hate, and your FF speech is in direct contradiction to that. George Carter, the guy from England whose letter appeared in FF #37, said, "Your magazines are intended to be used for entertainment, not political indoctrination." Yes! And your answer seemed to scorn his membership in a left-wing organization and said that your "democratic British fans would set him straight." Well, Prime Minister Wilson is a member of a left-wing organization, the Labor Party, and I don't think that he is considered undemocratic by many responsible people. What I'm saying boils down to "stay out of politics." I don't think this is any moment to play games with super-patriotic heroes. Your sales wouldn't suffer if you took out those "evil Commies" references. Marvel's too good to be involved in rightist name calling.

Dan Clark, 642 East 11th St.
New York, N. Y. 10009

Gosh, Dan, *someone's* gotta be the villain, and we can't use the Republicans just now—they're having enough trouble! (And before fifty million staunch Repubs send us fifty million indignant letters, of *course* we're only kiddin'!) Anyway, we're not sure that Britain's Labour Party can accurately be called a "left-wing organization," but after finishing the story we've just read, we're too tired to argue!

—"Didja know?" department! Didja know that the fabulous F.F. are gobbled up by readers in just about every nation in the free world? In fact, when you hear people refer to "have-not nations," they probably mean that they "have not" any F.F.'s! So, while your beady little eyes are eagerly perusing these words, just think — the same words are being read in Australia, South Africa, Alaska, Hawaii, and even in far-off Brooklyn! Face it, friend — you're IN!

Dear Stan and Jack,

We at *Galaxys* are proud to recognize as the best letter column in a comic—the FANTASTIC FOUR fan page.

Gary Arturs, Pres. of the Galaxys
2743 West San Migual Ave.
Phoenix, Ariz. 85017

Thanks a heap, Gary, but if our letter column is really tops, then it's you readers who deserve the credit—after all, they're your letters! So, you're a pretty shrewd guy, writing a letter praising yourself, eh?

Dear Stan and Jack,

After finishing FANTASTIC FOUR #37, I can really see that the marriage between Sue Storm and Reed Richards is almost sure to happen, barring some unforeseen tragedy that may separate these two lovers. Their marriage, however, poses some very unique, but interesting problems; foremost of which is what will their children look like? Could be an invisible ball of silly putty or perhaps a mentally superior rubber band. Obviously, the results of this marriage and the way in which you handle them in your future stories will prove of great interest.

Jim Quaid & Jerry Faller
Box 20, Girualt, Adams State College
Alamosa, Colo.

To whom, guys? A travelling freak show? We don't know any more than you do about what type of children Sue and Reed may have, but we'll promise you this—if they're not named Stan or Jack, you won't be seeing much of them!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I just got hold of Fantastic Four #37 and I'm glad to say that you're drawing The Thing almost human. Before, he looked like a cover girl from "MONSTERS TO LAUGH WITH." By the way I just got a hold of M.T.L.W. #3; it was even funnier than numbers 1 and 2.

Victor Taucer, 2449 Grand Ave.
Niagara Falls, New York

Yep! One thing we really like is an incisive, penetrating letter which digs beneath the surface and gets to the core of a serious social problem!

—Next ish, if we can get Stan and Jack away from their T-shirts long enough to finish the yarn, you'll find more thrills, action, and sheer stark drama than anyone has a right to expect for 12¢! In fact, we're always surprised when we have to pay taxes! We think of ourselves as a public service! Anyway, don't dare miss F.F. #42—even if you have to read it over your congressman's shoulder! It'll be another majestic milestone in the magnificent Marvel Age of Comics—whatever THAT means!!

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Albert Dorne —probably the greatest money-maker in the history of commercial art. At the height of his career, he began a full-time search for people who like to draw.

He's Looking for People Who Like to Draw

TODAY HUNDREDS of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working happily at easels and drawing boards, making pictures and getting well paid for it. They all can thank Albert Dorne, a famous artist who devotes almost his full time to helping other people become artists.

Some of the People Dorne Has Helped

Herb Smith was a payroll clerk. Soon after he started studying with us, he landed an art job with a large printing firm. This was four years ago; today he's head artist for the same firm.

Don Golemba of Detroit is another. He stepped up from railroad worker to the styling department of a big automobile company—by showing his work with the School. Now he helps design new-car models.

Pat Browning wanted to escape from her dull typing job to something creative. Soon after studying with us, she was promoted to full-time artist with the same firm—at much more money.

With the right training, Wanda Pickulski gave up her typing job to become fashion artist for a local department store.

Eric Ericson worked in a garage while he studied art at night. Today he is a successful artist, earns seven times as much, and is building a new home for his family.

Long before Albert Dorne started looking for people who like to draw, they came to him for advice and help. Since he alone could help only a few of these people, he called together America's most successful artists —men like Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Stevan Dohanos and Al Parker.

A Plan to Help Others

He said: "All over America, there are people who like to draw, who could be turned into good artists. Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years? I'm suggesting a new kind of school—a home-study art school that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live."

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they spent several years creating a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, the famous artists developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

Albert Dorne is not surprised by the success of his students. "The art field is growing. We keep getting calls from all over the country, asking us for practical, well-trained students who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs."

Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers it free and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or can offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

America's 12 Most Famous Artists

Norman Rockwell	Fred Ludekens
Jon Whitcomb	Ben Stahl
Al Parker	Robert Fawcett
Stevan Dohanos	Austin Briggs
George Giusti	Harold Von Schmidt
Peter Helck	Albert Dorne

Famous Artists Schools
Studio 7584, Westport, Conn.

I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and descriptive brochure.

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